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AUTHOR Laurel, Jeanne P., Comp.
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ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography lists publications which explore the various aspects of women's relation to literature. The items are grouped under the following headings: (1) articles (published in a journal); (2) books (single-author texts); and (3) collections (essays and documents, generally reprinted from other sources). (BZ)

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WOMEN'S STUDIES:
POTENTIALITIES AND IMPLICATIONS

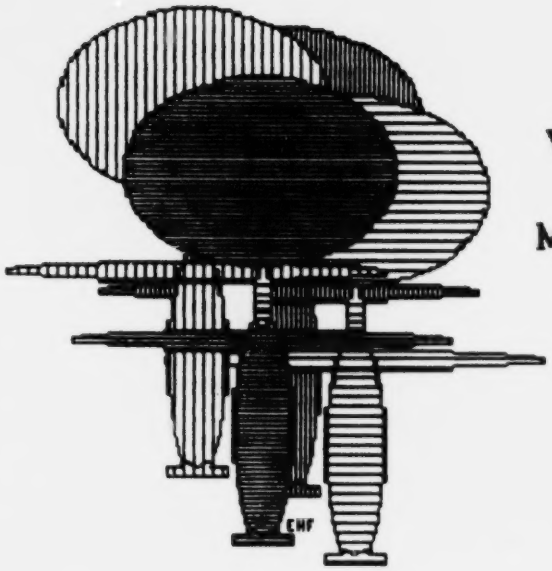
BIBLIOGRAPHY:
WOMEN AND LITERATURE

Indiana Committee for the Humanities

Jeanne P. Laurel
October 1986

Women's Studies Program
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana

SO 017993



Women's Studies Program
Indiana University
Memorial Hall East, Rm 130
Bloomington, IN 47405
812/335-0101

Women's Studies:
Potentialities and Implications

Bibliography: Women and Literature

The amount of information available on Women's Studies has exploded over the past two decades. As a brief bibliography of texts and local resources, the following cannot be all-inclusive. Entries have been selected for both their significance in each field and for their usefulness in the classroom -- as well as with an eye to price and accessibility. Nearly every individual who contributed to this bibliography had suggestions for more people to contact; every reference invoked others. Rather than using it is a definitive compilation, we suggest you view it as a starting point.

Indiana Committee for the Humanities

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Jeanne P. Laurel
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ARTICLES. Published in a journal.

"Melodramas of Beset Manhood: How Theories of American Fiction Exclude Women Authors"

Baym, Nina
1981; American Quarterly 33

Rpt. in Showalter, THE NEW FEMINIST CRITICISM. The qualities which make a work of literature "great" are culturally determined, not inherent or universal. The creation of the Great American Myth of individual confronting wilderness has excluded women's texts from serious consideration.

BOOKS. Single-author texts.

A Literature of Their Own: British Women Novelists From Brontë to Lessing

Showalter, Elaine
1977; Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press

History of the British novel by women, from the Victorian era to the present.

Black Women Novelists: The Development of a Tradition, 1892-1976

Christian, Barbara
1980; Westport, CT: Greenwood Press

Black women have developed a novelistic tradition within "the particular imaginative style [of] their respective communities." A selective overview demonstrating resonances and intertextualities between novels by Black women.

Communities of Women: An Idea in Fiction

Auerbach, Nina
1978; Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press

Literature by men and women about female communities: "a rebuke to the conventional ideal of a solitary woman living for and through men." Covers Pride and Prejudice, Little Women, The Bostonians, The Odd Women, more.

Literary Women: The Great Writers (revised edition)

Moers, Ellen
1977; Garden City, NY: Anchor Press/Doubleday

"A history of literary women;" one of the first, pioneering texts of feminist literary criticism. Raised issues to be answered by later critics. Women create heroines who speak for them. Covers English, American and French authors.

Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination

Gilbert, Sandra M. and Susan Guber
1979; New Haven, CT: Yale University Press

An analysis of 19th century British women's literature (prose and poetry) from Jane Austen to Emily Dickinson. Women write from within the male dominated tradition with a sense of rage to revision; but they also write within a female tradition.

Man Made Language (second edition)

Spender, Dale
1980; rpt. 1985; London: Routledge & Kegan Paul

Linguistics. All thought is expressed in language. Yet men have (until recently) controlled language: definitions, syntax, grammar. Result: women are controlled and silenced. Lively and concrete book.

Naked and Fiery Forms: Modern American Poetry by Women, a New Tradition

Juhasz, Suzanne
1976; New York: Octagon Books

Traces the development of the new tradition of American women's poetry. Covers Emily Dickinson, Marianne Moore, Denise Levertov, Sylvia Plath, Anne Sexton, Gwendolyn Brooks, Nikki Giovanni, Alta, Adrienne Rich.

Resisting Reader, The: A Feminist Approach to American Fiction

Fetterley, Judith
1978; Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press

Explores the dilemma of women reading "universal" (actually, male-centered) fiction through a fascinating and forceful reinterpretation of Hawthorne, Faulkner, Hemingway, Henry James, Fitzgerald and others.

Sexual Politics

Millet, Kate
1971; New York: Doubleday and Company, Inc

Pioneering text. The relationships between men and women are governed by unequal access to power. Contents: Sexual Politics; Historical Background; the Literary Reflection.

Silences

Olsen, Tillie
1978; New York: Delacorte Press/Seymour Lawrence

Literary criticism focusing on the creative process for the women who is writer. "This book is... concerned with the relationship of circumstances -- including class, color, sex; the times, climate into which one is born -- to the creation of literature," writes Olsen.

Surpassing the Love of Men: Romantic Friendships and Love Between Women from the Renaissance to the Present

Federman, Lillian
1981; New York: Morrow

Traces literary and historical materials by and about women involved in female friendships and lesbian relationships; and changing attitudes towards women's relationships.

Toward a Recognition of Androgyny

Heilbrun, Carolyn A.
1973; New York: Alfred A. Knopf

Introduces idea of androgyny in literature through male and female writers, although relying to some extent on generalizations. Contents: The Hidden River of Androgyny; The Woman as Hero; The Bloomsbury Group.

Troublesome Helpmate, The: A History of Misogyny in Literature

Rogers, Katherine M.
1966; Seattle: University of Washington Press

The "female villain" through the eyes of male writers. Chapters on the Old Testament, Medieval, Renaissance, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

Women Writers and Poetic Identity: Dorothy Wordsworth, Emily Brontë, and Emily Dickinson

Homans, Margaret
1980; Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press

"Three representative nineteenth-century poets...attempt to shape for themselves their own identities as poets in response to a literary tradition that depends on and reinforces the masculine orientation of language and of the poet."

Writing Beyond the Ending: Narrative Strategies of Twentieth-Century Women Writers

DuPlessis, Rachel Blau
1985; Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press

All narrative is a version (or expression) of ideology. Women writers question the androcentric ideology by destabilizing, denying or rewriting the conventional romance plot endings of the novel.

COLLECTIONS. Essays and documents, generally reprinted from other sources.

A Book of Women Poets from Antiquity to Now

Barnstone, Aliki and Willis Barnstone, editors
1980; New York: Schocken Books

Covers women poets from the ancient Sumerians through the present, cross-culturally and internationally, with headnotes. About a quarter originally wrote in the English language; the rest are presented in translation.

American Novelists Revisited: Essays in Feminist Criticism

Fleischmann, Fritz, editor
1982; Boston: G. K. Hall

Collection of scholarly articles on 19th century male as well as female authors. Provides new insights on (and ways to teach) the "classic" white men's canon from a feminist perspective.

Black Sister: Poetry by Black American Women, 1746-1980.

Stetson, Erlene, editor
1981; Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press

Sampling of up to 6 poems from 58 Black women poets from Phillis Wheatley to the 20th century. Only comprehensive anthology of poetry by Black women.

Black Women Writers (1950-1980): A Critical Evaluation

Evans, Mari, editor
1984; Garden City, NY: Anchor Press/Doubleday

Covers 15 Black women novelists, poets, essayists, short story writers. Includes selection by each author on creativity, two scholarly critical articles, and selected bio/bibliography.

Black Women Writers at Work: Conversations With...

Tate, Claudia, editor
1983; New York: Continuum

Interviews with 14 Black women writers on their work--values, aesthetics, conditions for creativity, etc.

Conjuring: Black Women, Fiction, and Literary Tradition

Pryse, Marjorie, and Hortense J. Spillers, editors
1985; Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press

Collection of scholarly articles organized around the premise that there is a distinct Black women's literary tradition. Most on specific texts, a few surveys cover works from slave narratives to the present.

New Feminist Criticism, The: Essays on Women, Literature & Theory

Showalter, Elaine, editor
1985; New York: Pantheon Books

18 essays, theory and practice, generally on English and American literature. Contents: The Academy and the Canon; Feminist Criticisms and Women's Cultures; Women's Writing and Feminist Critical Theories.

New French Feminisms: An Anthology

Marks, Elaine, and Isabelle de Courtivron, editors
1981; New York: Schocken Books

Excerpts and essays, giving an introduction to what French Feminist critics are doing in relation to language, literature, writing. Classic essays like "Laugh of the Medusa" included. Chronology and bio/bibliography. In English.

Norton Anthology of Literature by Women, The: The Tradition in English

Gilbert, Sandra M. and Susan Guber
1985; New York: W. W. Norton & Company

Selections from women's writing in America and Britain from mid 1300s on. Introductory notes to divisions-by-century challenge traditional periodization; headnotes to each author are concise and sensitive to feminist issues and tensions. Selected bibliography.

Sappho: Lyrics in the Original Greek, with Translations by Willis Barnstone

Barnstone, Willis, editor
1965; New York: Doubleday/Anchor Books

Poetry in the original Greek (with English translations) by one of the oldest women poets, plus about 150 pages of criticism, sources and glossaries. Foreword by Andrew R. Burn.

Shakespeare's Sisters: Feminist Essays on Women Poets

Gilbert, Sandra M. and Susan Guber, editors
1979; Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press

19 essays on British and American women's poetry from before 1800 to the present, from a variety of perspectives. Some essays from overview perspective; some on individual poets, with selected bibliography.